We claim:

1. A programmable method of managing
and tracking blood products between a plurality of
remote patient facilities and a central blood
testing facility comprising the steps of:

5   obtaining a blood specimen from
each patient who requires a blood reserve;

selecting a blood product for
cross-matching with each said patient specimen;

cross-matching each said patient

10 specimen and said blood product to determine their
compatibility with one another; and

preparing a patient identification
database of each of said blood products and
patient specimens determined to be compatible and

15 storing information in said database correlating
each of said blood products and patient specimens.

2.   The method according to claim 1
wherein the step of storing information is further
characterized by storing each patient's special
needs, prior transfusion reaction history,

5 autologous blood availability, directed blood
components, blood type and patient specimen
expiration date.

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3. The method according to claim 1 including the step of assigning said blood products and said patient specimens to a location within said facility and tracking any movement of specimens to other locations.

4. The method according to claim 1 including the step of determining types of blood attributes of each of said blood products and said patient specimens.

5. The method according to claim 1 including the step of determining compatibility of said blood product and said patient specimen by comparing the types of blood attributes thereof.

6. The method according to claim 1 further characterized by cross-matching a segment of said blood product and said patient specimen at said facility, assigning said segment and said patient specimen to a location in said facility, and recording said location in said database.

7. The method according to claim 1 including the step of selectively displaying the absence or presence of each item of information stored including prior transfusion reaction history, autologous blood availability, directed

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blood components, blood type and patient specimen expiration date.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of cross-matching includes the step of producing a product identification tag and attaching to each blood component found to be compatible.

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9. The method according to claim 9 including the step of comparing the antigens and antibodies in each of said blood products and said patient specimens to determine whether each is present in each segment of said blood product and said patient specimen tested and storing said information in said database.

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10. In a programmable blood management system for managing and tracking blood products between a plurality of hospitals and a central blood test facility wherein a database is provided for recording information and a screen is provided for displaying said information, the method comprising the steps of:

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obtaining a blood specimen from each patient requiring a blood reserve for possible transfusion;

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assigning a segment of a blood

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product for cross-matching;

cross-matching each said segment and said patient specimen at said facility to determine their compatibility with one another;

identifying each said segment and said patient specimen determined to be compatible with patient identification information; and

recording said patient identification information on said database.

11. In a system according to claim 10 further characterized by determining blood type attributes of each of said blood products and said patient specimens prior to said cross-matching.

12. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of testing the compatibility of said blood type attributes prior to said cross-matching.

13. In a system according to claim 12 characterized by periodically updating said blood type attributes and recording said information in said database.

14. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of tracking the location of each said segment and said patient specimen by

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recording its movement between said test facility and patient location.

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15. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of recording blood attributes of each said patient specimen in said database.

16. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of recording prior transfusion reaction history of each said patient in said database.

17. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of recording autologous blood availability in said database.

18. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of recording blood type of each said blood product and said patient specimen.

19. In a system according to claim 10 including the step of recording the specimen expiration date of each said segment and said patient specimen.

20. A system for managing blood products and tracking their movement between a central blood test facility and a plurality of

hospitals wherein a computer is provided for
processing data including a screen for displaying
information, said system comprising:

first means including a database
for entering information pertaining to each
patient requiring a blood reserve;

second means for entering blood
type information for a blood specimen from each
said patient;

third means for recording a blood
type for a blood product assigned to each said
patient; and

fourth means for recording on said
database results of cross-matching of each said
patient specimen and said blood product.

21. The system according to claim 20
including fifth means for recording special needs
of each said patient on said database including
means for indicating the presence of said special
needs.

22. The system according to claim 20
including sixth means for recording the prior
transfusion reaction history of each said patient
including means for indicating the presence of a
prior transfusion reaction.

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23. The system according to claim 20 including seventh means for recording autologous blood availability and its location for each said patient including means for indicating the presence of an autologous donation for said patient.

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24. The system according to claim 20 including eighth means for recording directed blood donations for each said patient including means for indicating the presence of said directed blood donations.

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25. The system according to claim 20 including ninth means for recording the expiration date of each said patient specimen on said database including means for indicating the expiration date of each said blood specimen which is current and non-expired.

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26. The system according to claim 20 including tenth means for comparing blood attributes of each said patient specimen and said blood product.

27. The system according to claim 20 including means for cross-matching said segment and said patient specimen at said facility and

means for tracking movement of each said segment
and said patient specimen between said facility and
said hospitals.

28.   The system according to claim 20
including eleventh means for recording components
of said blood products which have been reserved
for said patient including means for indicating
the presence of said reserved components in
inventory.

29.   A programmable blood management
system for managing and tracking blood products
for use between a central blood test facility and
one or more remote patient facilities wherein a
computer is provided for processing data, a
database is provided for recording information and
a screen is provided for displaying said
information recorded comprising:
          means for recording information
identifying each patient requiring a blood reserve
on said database;
          means for obtaining a blood
specimen from each said patient;
          means for assigning a segment of a
blood product for cross-matching;
          means for cross-matching each said
segment and said patient specimen at said facility

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to determine their compatibility with one another;

means for identifying each said segment and said patient specimen determined to be compatible; and

means for assigning said segment and said patient specimen to a location in said facility.

30. A system according to claim 29 including means for entering blood attributes of said blood specimen and said segment on said database; and means for comparing said blood attributes to determine their compatability.